

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, including a drum having an axis of rotation in a direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum, comprising:

a water level detecting unit detecting level of water in said water tank;
a water feed unit for feeding water to said water tank; and
a control portion operating said washing machine for performing a wash cycle including washing, rinsing, and draining;

said control portion being configured~~[,]~~ to recognize when said wash cycle is completed and upon such recognition, to cause said water level detecting unit to detect water level in said water tank only for a prescribed time period ~~set in accordance with a time period calculated from~~ substantially equaling a smallest amount of water detectable by said water level detecting unit divided by a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit ~~and a smallest amount of water detectable by said water level detecting unit~~, and thereafter power supply to said control portion is turned off.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, including a drum having an axis of rotation in a direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum; wherein

said water tank has an opening in a plane crossing said axis of rotation;
said washing machine comprising:
a door opening and closing said opening of said water tank;
a water leakage detecting unit monitoring water leakage at said water feed unit and detecting the water level in said water tank; and
a control portion operating said washing machine for performing a wash cycle including washing, rinsing, and draining;

said control portion being configured~~[,]~~ to recognize when said wash cycle is completed and upon such recognition to cause said leakage detecting unit to monitor water leakage at said water feed unit only for a prescribed time period ~~set in accordance with a time period calculated from~~ substantially equaling a smallest amount of water detectable by said water level detecting unit divided by a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit and a smallest amount of water detectable by said water leakage detecting unit, and thereafter power supply to said control portion is turned off.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 3, further comprising

a lock unit for preventing opening of said door;

said control portion being further configured to cause said lock unit to lock said door when said leakage detecting unit detects water leakage at said water feed unit.

6. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 5, further comprising:

a drainage unit draining water in said water tank; and

a lock detecting unit detecting whether said door is locked by said lock unit or not; wherein

when said water leakage detecting unit detects a water leakage at said water feed unit, said lock unit is activated not to open said door and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked, said control portion being further configured to cause said drainage unit to drain off the water in said water tank.

7. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 6, said control portion being further configured, when said lock unit is caused to lock said door and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked, to notify

that said door is not locked.

8. (Currently Amended) A washing machine including a drum having an axis of rotation in a direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum; wherein

said water tank has an opening in a plane crossing said axis of rotation;

said washing machine comprising:

a water level detecting unit detecting water level in said water tank;

a lock unit for locking said door;

a water feed unit for feeding water to said water tank; and

a control portion operating said washing machine for performing a wash cycle including washing, rinsing, and draining;

said control portion being configured ~~[,]~~ to recognize when said wash cycle is completed, and upon such recognition to cause said water level detecting unit to detect water level in said water tank only for a prescribed time period ~~set in accordance with a time period calculated from~~ substantially equaling at least a smallest amount of water detectable by said water level detecting unit divided by a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit ~~and a smallest amount of water detectable by said water level detecting unit~~, and when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower than a first water level as said lowest water level detectable by said water level detecting unit, causes said lock unit to lock said door, and when said water level detecting unit does not detect a water level not lower than said first water level, power supply to said control portion is turned off.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 8, said control portion being further configured, when said wash cycle is completed, to cause said lock unit to unlock said door.

11. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising:

a drainage unit draining water in said water tank; and

a lock detecting unit detecting whether said door is locked by said lock unit or not; wherein

when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower than said first water level after the completion of said operation for washing and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked by said lock unit, said control portion being further configured to cause said drainage unit to drain off the water in said water tank.

12. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 11, said control portion being further configured, when said lock unit is caused to lock said door and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked, to notify that said door is not locked.

13. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising

a drainage unit for draining off the water in said water tank;

said control portion being further configured, after completion of said wash cycle, when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower than a second water level higher than said first water level, to cause said drainage unit to drain off the water in said water tank.

14. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 13, wherein said second water level is positioned lower than a lowermost plane of said opening of said water tank.